

RIORDAN ET AL.  
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**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

LATERAL CONNECTION SYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A service ~~TEE~~ tee forming part of a main fluid line has a laterally extending female fitting with threads and a gasket spaced axially from the distal end of the threads. A male fitting having a series of male threads and a cylindrical extension terminating in the distal end of the male fitting is threadedly coupled to the female fitting. The threads are non-tapered and cylindrical. A mechanical connection between the male and female fittings is provided by the engagement of the threads, while the seal is formed between the gasket and the extension, thereby enabling orientation about the common axes of the fittings relative to one another for a full 360°.